

# 2008 *Tempranillo*



## VINEYARDS

Dunnigan Hills  
87% *Tempranillo*  
9% *Graciano*

Russian River Valley  
4% *Cabernet Sauvignon*

## BARRELS

100% Barrel Aged

20% new from:  
*Magrenan | French Allier,*  
*coopered in Spain*

80% from 2-5 year old barrels:  
*Magrenan | French Allier*  
*Trust | Hungarian Oak, hand split*  
*and slow toasted over oak fires*  
*World Cooperage | 3 year air dried*  
*American Oak*

## CHEMISTRY

Appellation: Dunnigan Hills

TA: .64

pH: 3.91

Alcohol: 13.9%

Production: 5,400 cases

## GRAPES

The *Tempranillo* and *Graciano* vines grown in our Matchbook Vineyard in the Dunnigan Hills are from cuttings imported from the *Pesquera* region of Spain. While the traditional earthy and spicy flavors are evident from these old-world varietals, the Matchbook *Tempranillo* shows its California upbringing in the expansive aromas of raspberry truffles, vanilla and a hint of dried black cherries. The juicy flavors of rich red berries and cocoa powder linger on the palate with blackberry hints. The finish is long and smooth, with essence of chocolate covered espresso beans. Moderate tannins with a medium weight give this wine the ability to pair with practically anything.

## CELLAR

The grapes were gently crushed and fermented in small, temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks. Specially selected yeast, *Assmannshousen*, was used on two-thirds of the lots to enhance color and flavor extraction without harsh tannins. The other third underwent a native fermentation which gives this wine intensity and complexity. The tanks were pumped over twice a day until nearly dry, then pressed and aged in oak barrels for 18 months. We like to use an assortment of French, Hungarian and American oak and only 20% new to avoid over-oaking. This wine was further enhanced by blending in 9% *Graciano* and 4% *Cabernet Sauvignon* to give it depth, richness and improved structure.

## STORY

As a farm kid growing up in the late 1950's and early 1960's, John Giguere was a confirmed pyromaniac starting various things on fire such as his father's wheat fields. He and his brother graduated to launching rockets, which often blew up at some stage of the journey resulting in more random fires, and calls to the local fire department. They eventually grew out of this fascination with the Matchbook but still have fond memories of the power they possessed.

